

ARGENTINE.

"In Buenos Ayres we now have a million and a half people," said E. Thorn Ely at the Wedell house Friday. Ely is an agent of the American exposition in the thriving metropolis of the American Republic. The exposition is the salesroom for all kinds of American goods, from carpet tacks to automobiles and portable houses.

American goods are gaining rapidly in competition with German and English goods in Argentina. Imports of American goods increase about 35 per cent a year, German 25 per cent, and English 20 per cent. It will not be long before Americans will have all the best of the market in our Republic.

There is practically no manufacturing in Argentine Republic. The land is so fertile and valuable that it is better to use it for farming purposes than manufacturing sites. Wheat shipped to Europe is paid for in gold, which is worth 200 per cent of Argentine money, so our farmers are our most prosperous class."

A gentleman sends us the above extract and writes as follows:

"Editor Goodwin's Weekly:—Will you kindly elucidate this matter of European 'gold being worth 200 per cent of Argentine money?' Is Argentina on a silver basis? What is the current coin of the realm—paper or silver? Has she free trade or protection? It is apparent from the growth of Buenos Ayres that Argentina is undisturbed by revolutions—at least, we here hardly ever hear of Argentina except in items indicating that peace and prosperity are the unusual conditions existing in that portion of the Western hemisphere. It is apparent also from Mr. Ely's statement that farming is the principal industry in the 'silver' republic. Heretofore I thought that cattle-raising and grazing were nearly the predominant industries with the exportation of beef, hides, horns and beef extract. Has Argentina no extensive mining, lumbering or fishing enterprises to fall back upon in case of failure to farming by drought or otherwise? Why is Argentina prosperous without any manufacturing? I want to know."

The extract copied by our correspondent is not very lucid. The idea that in a State twice as large as California, or three and a half times the size of Utah, there cannot be land enough spared (it is so fertile) for sites for manufacturing plants is comical. There are few plants of the kind for the same reason that there are few in Arkansas or Florida. The capital is not there, the artisans are not there, the disposition to engage in that kind of business is not there.

European gold is like any other; it is of the same value everywhere. Argentina was formerly on a silver basis. We believe it is on a metallic basis now, but the trouble is she has little metallic money. Her currency is practically paper, and her credit is so low that it is at a discount of 50 per cent. The country is in the main controlled by Great Britain, and the foreign settlements are on a gold basis. Argentina is not afflicted by revolutions because the controlling people there are from Great Britain, though during the past few years a great many thousands of Latins, mostly from Italy, have gone there. Mr. Ely does not say that farming is the principal industry, but the most profitable. Argentina has millions of wild cattle running on her pampas, but the profits from them are not large, while her wheat in prosperous years is a great crop, and brings ready money. The Italian and the great bulk of English, Scotch and Irish immigrants there are not good cowboys; they prefer tilling the soil.

Argentina has some gold, silver, copper, salt and alum mines in the foothills of the Andes mountains, but they are a long way from transportation, and only the first two can be mined with any profit; she has no extensive timber regions, and no fishing industry of note.

Argentina is not very prosperous; that is, in the United States sense of prosperity. The majority of her working people are content with a very small reward. It is more than they received in Italy or Ireland or England, but it would not satisfy Americans at all. The State is practically bankrupt.

About thirty years ago Argentina had a great boom. All manner of speculations were entered upon. These were backed by the great house of Barings. But the State was on a silver basis. The demonetization of silver in the United States and Germany brought on the steady decline of the white metal and a like decline in the value of property. This culminated in a general crash. The Barings went down in the great wreck, and since then Argentina has been practically bankrupt. She is staggering under a great load of debt, and her currency is worth but 50 per cent on the dollar.

Her wheat crop was a failure in 1896 and '97, and only a half crop in 1898, while tens and hundreds of thousands of her cattle perished. It will require perhaps thirty years more to place Argentina on a really prosperous basis.

How prone history is to repeat itself. When at the last conference in this city Apostle Woodruff and President of the Stake Taylor made harangues, there were doubtless thousands who tried to explain to themselves the impression which the rantings made upon them, and failed. But had they gone to their Bibles, they might have found that a clear diagnosis of the business was given three thousand years ago, and set down in words that cannot be improved upon. It is found in the fifth verse of the thirty-ninth chapter of Job, and reads as follows:

"Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who has loosed the bands of the wild ass?"

DARKNESS AND LIGHT.

Dr. Cook in the Sun says: "The long polar night is one of the barriers to the success of every polar expedition. The night of months with its low temperature and high humidity drives men to the verge of desperation. It depresses the spirits and suppresses all the functions of the human body. Now one is melancholy; then one curses oneself and companions; and again a wave of sleepy dullness covers every human effort. Indeed, this hellish darkness brings out all the badness of which a man is capable."

That description is dismal enough surely, but it has its advantages. There are no political speeches to hear; no one has to read the subsidized newspaper that simulates independence; the perfect liberty which absolute obedience secures is never portrayed. There are darker things than the outer darkness which we read of in the Good Book or in tales of Arctic travel.

The passion for going North can be compared to nothing save men's vices. They follow them at night; with the dawn they are all bowed down with remorse; they promise themselves that they will never again be so weak and wicked, but the mantle of night drives away all their resolutions. It seems to be the same with every man who has ever been on a polar expedition. When he returns he is like the politician who has been defeated for office. He says: "That fixes it. I will never be such a fool again," but he will be on hand when another election draws near.

So the Arctic voyager, when on shore at home for a little while, becomes restless again. The spell of the great North is again upon him, and draws him, like his vices, against his will, until he can no longer resist.

That reminds one that only through light comes progress. The properties of light are not yet half understood, but every new development brings out new wonders and new blessings in it. A scientist in the East the other day declared that already all surface diseases yield to the X-ray; that when better understood it would banish disease from the world. When the first command was given, "Let there be light," the record reads: "And God saw the light that it was good." The significance generally as-

cribed to that has been that the good referred to was only the glory that followed when the new world was revealed. But scientists are gravitating to the thought that the meaning that the light was good was that from it all good was to come; that when to the souls of men perfect light should come, they would be like those that dwell in the realm where light is born; that within light are all the properties, when understood, to drive away disease and dark thoughts and put mortals in accord with those that are immortal, and that when the Master said "I am the light of the world," he meant the perfection that succeeds when all that is dark in thought or act or condition is driven away, and the space between men and the angels is eliminated.

The ore and bullion purchases in this city every day are something marvelous. They must awaken the wonder of people at a distance as they read of the unfailing stream of newly created wealth that flows with steadily increasing current through this city. It is a mighty promise of a great city on this site in the near future.

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

Great woman she, but wrongly born. As a man she would have been a power equal to the foremost. She had an intellect, a firmness, a courage that would have made her in the ranks of men the equal of her namesake, the great war Secretary. As it was, she accepted her fate. As a woman she was a superb wife, a devoted mother. She shrank from no duty that fate had in store for her, but feeling her own vast superiority over the average man, she rebelled against the ancient claim of woman's inferiority, and in the name of justice demanded her full rights. She was not like any other woman's rights woman. Had most of the rest of them been men, they would have doubted whether the sphere of woman made it possible for them to emancipate themselves from the toils that surround them and to fill acceptably the full duties of citizenship. Had Mrs. Stanton been a man she would have declared that only brain and heart rule; that when a woman has more brain and heart than a man, she is the better citizen of the two. She performed a great work; she was an evangel for her sex; she was a shining light in the world; she followed the path of duty to where it ended in honor and everlasting peace. God rest her soul.

It is natural that the brilliant City Council should be particular about the jail site. Some of the members, too, should be ready and willing to help plan the arrangement of the new apartments.

Both parties have thoroughly canvassed Utah during the past six weeks. The speakers have all had their say on national affairs. They have discussed the trusts, tariff, monopolies, reciprocity with Cuba, etc.; a few have referred to the proposed plan of impounding the waters of various streams by Government aid. But is it not true, nevertheless, that the one overruling thought has been to secure the election of such men to the Legislature as will insure the election of Apostle Reed Smoot to the Senate of the United States? Has not everything else really been subordinated to this one expected consummation? Is it not true that tens of thousands of the voters have no other design or desire except to see this consummation? If this is true, who says that this is a free people, fit to handle an American ballot?

Mary MacLane is going back to Butte, back where she can get her beloved olives, and leave forever the straight fronts and toothbrushes of metropolitan life.

Politics in Montana—it was Sherman who said "War is hell."